

Edgartown Martha's Vineyard

March 8<sup>th</sup> 1847.

My Dear, I am on this solitary island, in sour weather, without you. But it is solitary only because I am among strangers when I wish to be at home. The last week has been dolorful to me. I was three days <sup>at</sup> Apponigansett <sup>it</sup> not at all to my liking. & I am here for a longer, or shorter time as circumstances may determine. If matters move happily I shall stay a week at least. My lecture to-night, before the Lyceum of this place will settle the question. The people seem to be very intelligent & I have been waited on by several men of fine talents & liberal sentiments who are very desirous to hear a course of lectures. Among them is a young gentleman by the name of Pease, who is a painter and draftsman to the Government. He spends a good deal of time at Washington. He is a Swedenborgian, & is fully sick of all that he sees among the politicians at Washington. He says there is nothing to be expected from them but corruption, treachery to their parties & betrayal of the country. He is a very fine gentleman. He is acquainted with the movements of Mr. Owen at the Capital which he related to me in part. All will depend upon my lecture to-night. If I am happy in my effort there will be a great interest, for I am told the people are exceedingly excitable. That is not however a favorable omen in my opinion. It will do well for a time but too suddenly heated, there will be danger of their becoming too suddenly cold. I am not quite so well as I should like to be but I am going to take time <sup>to</sup> prepare myself for a grand speech. I must hold up writing for the present & go examining on my theme. I must impress the people favorably to-night. Much while pray for my success. How I wish you were here to sit right before me all the while I am lecturing. It would inflame my fancy & quicken thought & liberate speech. But let us wait in hope. About verses

Tuesday morning. Well I succeeded so well in my lecture evening  
that I am to stay tonight. I gave a capital lecture for an in-  
troduction one. You will put the right meaning upon this. I have  
a right to tell you how well I do, without the charge of egotism.  
But I shall most likely have the pleasure of footling my own bills  
here. I am obliged to stop at a hotel, and the people seem  
rather fearful of taxation. But there are intelligent people  
here & Swedenborgianism is beginning to take root here  
& it seems important to introduce ~~of~~ association at the ex-  
position & interpreters of the New Church mysteries. I do not  
think anything immediate will come of my lectures  
but they will be a basis for something by & by. Last night  
I gave an entirely new lecture from <sup>my</sup> only that I ever gave  
before, showing the necessity of a social reform. It was upon  
the nine scourges of civilized society. Tonight I shall speak  
on Association after Kennedy. I am willing to stay as long as  
the best interest of the cause demands of it or a fortnight. but  
I am impatient to be at home. You must not expect me  
at all however for I cannot tell when I shall be able to be with  
you. I had a most pressing invitation to go to Nantucket  
last evening at the close of my lecture. The gentleman said  
there were a great many friends there who would give  
me a hearty welcome. If we go to Nantucket at all before  
the May meeting I don't know but we had better go now. On-  
ly think! I was obliged to leave New Bedford in such haste, that  
I forgot to have your letters forwarded to me here, & it will be  
ten ~~long~~ days before I can hear from you. Your letters after  
the receipt of this, would not probably reach home until I  
should have left the island. It is possible that I may be at New  
Bedford on Friday evening. It will depend on Allen's meeting  
me on the wharf, as we talked a week ago when we por-

ted. I have spent a long time with a young man this morning from  
Charleston, S.C. who was away from the whole ship & crew at  
the Sandwich Islands. You know that is the ship which Frank Cabot  
is on board of - He left the Florida & re-located himself on the ship  
York which was bound home. When the York was well out  
to sea he came from his bidding place. He is a College educated  
is a passionate lover of music & plays with a great deal of appre-  
ciation Beethoven Mozart Rossini & Holberg. I was much pleased  
with his intelligence but I think he has been a hard case. He is un-  
doubtedly a talented fellow with a good share of vanity. He left  
all his clothing except the coarse sailor suit which he had on when  
he goes round from house to house in his horrid dress & is wel-  
comed by all. He gave me a whalebone ring with a California pearl  
set. I suppose it is of no value. nor is there any beauty about it except  
in the pearl. But I like it.

He gave me a very pleasant account of Frank, saying that he

was well & happy & was well liked by the captain & officers. He  
speaks well of all the crew - says they all have some gentility  
in their manner & have <sup>as</sup> active a crew as he ever saw. He thinks  
Frank will do well - ~~that~~ he has a friend on board by the  
name of Somers who is his most intimate friend. This young  
man's name is Berlin & left the ship last September. The  
Florida had then but a very small part of her cargo. He thinks that  
Frank will leave, if ~~the~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~aboard~~ complete ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> cargo this year. But  
he does not know anything about it. This will be pleasant to ~~know~~  
to the Cobots. I learned all this by accident. I was conversing with  
the mate of the Florida on the subject of whaling & mentioned that  
I had a friend on board the Florida. He then told me of this  
young man & this morning I looked him up.

I don't think I ever made a more unpleasant tour than this has  
been in many things. At Mattapoisett we were ~~were~~ forced to  
death by a diary of a universalist minister, who was anxious to see  
deem himself to be estimation by active the plain fool for having  
represented me as an infidel after my first lecture there. We had  
no peace with him for he would have us stop with him & his tongue  
was busy with idle chattering. I tried to read Don Quixote which I found  
among his books & told him he must excuse my reading it for  
it was new to me & I was intensely interested. So on leaving his  
house he offered to lend his Quixote, two volumes of which I took  
& you can imagine what a comfort they have been to me  
in the general dearth of society & sour & stormy weather which  
I have met with. It is ~~really~~ one of the most interesting books  
that I ever read. Cervantes was ~~really~~ a prodigy. Don Quix-  
ote & his companion Sancho were as great curiosities <sup>as</sup> the Egyp-  
tian mummies. I spend what little time I can get in the  
study of the great & chivalrous character of that notar-  
able knight of the sorrowful countenance. Thus you see  
that my sojourn life is not wholly diverted from literature.  
Now accomplished I shall soon become under my present fa-  
vorable circumstances will be master of conjecture in  
various quarters. How do you get on in the study of your  
views? It is too bad that I am denied all the pleasure of  
your reading. I don't see but banishment is my sentence.  
It is a hard fate, but I will show that it can be endured  
if so it be. You may be assured that I am growing unbearably  
homesick & shall be on my way home as soon as I can get  
made myself that I can in conscience. Is not that a pretty  
speech? What right have duty and attraction to conflict?

out of their despot and hatred of the present order of things. I  
am willing to sacrifice myself in helping and saving its  
foundations. What is the use in making Mexican bonds to  
blow up San Juan d' Ulloa. There is work enough nearer home.  
But this is nonsense, we cannot blow up anything. we can only  
supercede - substitute the true for the false. The great soul  
of the universe will reward all things after its ideal & it is for us  
to read wisely the facts of our age. we cannot propound wisdom.  
That is the business of the Sphinx. It is for us to answer well  
the riddle which she asks us. The true soul is always calm  
& serene. A foolish impatience does never dominate over it.  
The world is a great game of foot-ball, but deeper than that  
lies an eternal purpose which the ages shall fulfil. Man  
works truly, only as he works from that purpose. Master  
myself and thou hast done much towards mastering the  
world. Stand alone in audience with the great impersonal soul  
thou shalt learn the deep wisdom. and in it shall be thy works  
and gathering the energy for it. Our little life betokens us. we  
swim around on the surface of the sea but we never explore  
its depths. we grasp at the purple bubbles which burst in the  
air. we scarcely dive to the bottom where lie strown the rich  
and precious. Our poor communions what are they? we meet  
man & go from him a greater stranger than before we  
met those we call friends. we fondle them in our arm's  
& we go from them empty. we have snatched together the airy  
bubbles of porality & sensualism. we have even bathed to-  
gether in the ocean of infinite being now feasted on the nectar  
of the gods. Blessed child, there is a common ground wherein we  
may ever meet. It is that of the impersonal beauty - the world of  
enchanted, which is the real world.

It is clearing up. I hope we shall have fair weather yet. At any rate  
be I fair within. Be careful of your health - your eyes - your head  
in due time, hope to see me. mean while I fling you a kiss, in welcome  
of the Spring. Flora will soon bring you her aquatic lavender flowers.  
we will have a stroll when I see you if the weather is fine & have may  
a fine walk by the ~~brass~~ sea - I meet you always <sup>there</sup> & in all  
great & pure thoughts. Give my love to all our dear folks  
you can scarcely tell how I long to see them. Be with me in  
the real life! Even thine own John.